

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 have been cancelled, and claims 2, 5, 6, 21 and 22 have been amended. Claims 2-6, 8 and 11-23 are pending.

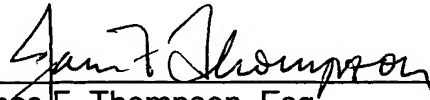
The amendment to the claims is made in the interest of advancing prosecution of this application. Applicant does not necessarily concur with the rejections in the final Office Action, and reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a later-filed application.

Independent claim 1 has been cancelled along with dependent claims 9-10, and dependent claims 2-6, 8, 21 and 22 have been amended to depend from independent claim 11, which has been allowed along with claims 8, 12-20 and 23. Thus, all the claims of this application should now be allowable, and the application in overall condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Thompson", is written over a horizontal line.

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